(c) whether TRAI's review of the 'Rural' classification is based on 'Short distance charging areas'; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) The TRAI *vide* its Tariff Order dated 24th January, 2003 has proposed to define 'Rural Subscribers' as those residing in rural short distance charging areas, typically, Tehsils, with effect from 1.4.2003. At present, subscribers residing in rural areas as per census of India are being charged telephone service tariffs as prescribed by TRAI for rural subscribers.

Closure of sugar mills

†947. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the sugar mills closed during the last three years, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restart these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) The State-wise details of sugar mills which did not work during the three sugar seasons *viz.*, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) The Directorate of Sugar do not maintain/receive any information regarding reasons for closure of the sugar mills.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the entrepreneurs to take steps for re-opening the closed mills.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Statement

State-wise and sector-wise no. of sugar mills which did not work during sugar season 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-2002.

State	1999-2000 No. of Sugar Mills				2000-2001 No. of Sugar Mills				2001-2002 No. of Sugar Mills			
	Private	Public	Co-operative	Total	Private	Public	Co-operative	Total	Private	Public	Co-operative	Total
Punjab	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1
Rajasthan	1	0	0	1	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	2
Uttar Pradesh	7	0	0	7	7	0	0	7	6	0	0	6
Madhya Pradesh	1	1	0	2	1	2	0	3	1	2	0	3
Gujarat	0	0	4	4	0	0	5	5	0	0	7	7
Maharashtra	1	0	9	10	1	0	6	7	2	0	25	27
Bihar	3	15	0	18	3	15	0	18	3	15	0	18
Assam	0	1	1	2	0	1	1	2	0	1	2	3
Andhra Pradesh	1	1	4	6	1	1	4	6	1	1	4	6
Karnataka	2	0	1	3	3	0	0	3	4	0	2	6
Tamil Nadu	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Orissa	1	0	0	1	3	0	1	4	3	0	1	4
TOTAL	17	18	20	55	20	19	19	58	22	19	44	85

Crisis in sugar industry

†948. SHRI D.P. YADAV: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the loss incurred by the sugar industry in the country during the last two years;

(b) what are the reasons for the current crisis in sugar industry;

(c) whether Government are contemplating any scheme to reduce the excise duty on sugar and duty on molasses to give relief to tide-over the crisis; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.